Technology Center 2600



IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicants: Christopher ATKINSON et al.

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INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT UNDER 37 C.F.R. §1.97 AND §1.98

Assistant Commissioner of Patents Washington, D.C. 20231

March 26, 2003

Sir:

In the matter of the above-identified application, applicants are submitting herewith a copy of a communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application and copies of the documents listed in the attached form equivalent to Form PTO-1449 for the Examiner's consideration. Courtesy copies of an International Search Report dated May 9, 2000, and a United Kingdom Search Report dated November 26, 1999, are attached hereto.

This Information Disclosure Statement is being submitted before the mailing date of a first office action on the merits.

To the extent the documents listed on the attached form equivalent to Form PTO-1449 are not in the English language, the requirement of 37 C.F.R. §1.98(a)(3) for a concise explanation of the relevance is satisfied by an English language abstract of the foreign patent office report citing the documents.

It is respectfully requested that this information disclosure statement be considered by the Examiner.

Please charge any shortage in fees due in connection with the filing of this paper, including extension of time fees, to Deposit Account No. 01-2135 (367.40301X00) and please credit any excess fees to such Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,

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Attachments

DES:nbf